



Department  
of Health



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Dear colleague,

### NOMINATIONS FOR UK HONOURS NEW YEAR 2017:

I am writing to seek your help in identifying potential candidates from across the health and care system for the 2017 Queen's New Year Honours list, and would like to thank the many of you who nominated staff and colleagues at the last Honours round.

The Department of Health is looking for nominations for people who have made an outstanding contribution at any level within the health and care system. You can nominate anyone, for example a nurse caring for patients with cancer who has led an improvement in patient care, or a volunteer who has dedicated their time over a significant period or raised considerable funds that have benefitted the community. Please feel free to cascade this letter within your organisation and share with staff and colleagues the testimonials of previous honours recipients (overleaf) on what receiving an honour means to them.

We remain committed to increasing the number of nominations, across all levels, for those who continue to be under-represented, especially women and black and ethnic minorities.

The deadline for completed nominations is **Wednesday 24 February**. Guidance and the nomination form are [attached](#).

Please take note of the recently reinstated British Empire Medal (BEM), for which we are particularly seeking nominations for young people, including young staff at any level, who are making an impact above and beyond their day job.

Separately, you may be aware of the Queen's Ambulance Medal (QAM), which recognises distinguished and meritorious service within the NHS ambulance service. We would also like to invite you to submit nominations of highly deserving candidates for this medal. Guidance is available on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk), or email [nhsservicespolicy@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nhsservicespolicy@dh.gsi.gov.uk) for further information.

I look forward to receiving your nominations, and I am grateful for your help in recognising the achievements of people who do extraordinary things and make a real difference in the health and care system.

Yours sincerely,

**UNA O'BRIEN**  
**PERMANENT SECRETARY**

## Previous honours recipients in quotes

**Samantha Swinglehurst MBE, Lead nurse, Specialist Practice at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust. For services to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.**



“This is an extraordinary honour. I see myself as a cog in a machine – I can only do what I do because of my colleagues who every day display outstanding commitment and professionalism. I’m so proud that nursing is at the forefront of this work.”

As lead nurse in specialist practice at the Hampstead hospital’s child and adolescent mental health services, Samantha Swinglehurst has helped youngsters with life-threatening eating disorders receive treatment in the community.

**Ailsa Bosworth MBE, Chief Executive and Founder, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society. For services to People with Rheumatoid Arthritis**



“I was thrilled and delighted to receive an MBE in the New Year’s Honours. It’s always great to have your work acknowledged and I share this with my superb team at NRAS.”

Ailsa started the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society following her own experience of the condition.

**Sir Munir Pirmohamed, Chair of Medicine, University of Liverpool**



“I am tremendously surprised, but hugely delighted to have received this honour”

Professor Pirmohamed is an expert in pharmacogenetics and has spent more than 20 years researching how differences in our genes can affect our response to drugs.

**Wendy Maxwell MBE, Chill4Us Carers. For services to Carers.**



“When I received my letter, I thought it must be a hoax. Then when I realized it was genuine I was deeply honoured. The emails and cards of congratulations that I received from all over the world have been uplifting and wonderful to receive.”

Wendy has run an online community for carers, Chill 4 Us Carers, for 13 years and has campaigned tirelessly to provide computers to around 500 people those who can’t afford them.